but to drainage. The Chinese have learned to keep the surface soil stirred to conserve moisture. This has been of especial advantage in the semi-arid regions of the North, and particularly in Inner Mongolia, where "dry farming" extends the area of cultivation beyond what would otherwise be possible.

The Chinese have discovered means of fighting some of the pests which attack their crops. Thus in the South they have for centuries introduced colonies of ants to their orchards to feed on insects which infest the trees.

Force of circumstances and his own intelligence have made the Chinese farmer an expert in economy. Not only does he raise several crops a year on the same field wherever the season is long enough to permit it, but he often has more than one crop growing on the same land at the same time. For example, while wheat, sown in drills, is maturing, cotton seed is scattered broadcast, and its young plants have made a good start by the time the grain is cut. As many as three crops ripening at different times may be seen at once on the same plot. The Chinese is an adept at conserving fuel. Although through much of the country the winters are chilly and in some sections very cold, rooms are generally heated, if at all, only by a charcoal brazier or, in the North, by a *Wang*—a bed of brick or earth with flues running through it horizontally. Instead of spending fuel in wanning the air of an entire house, the Chinese puts on heavier clothing. For most of the populace this is in the form of garments between the two layers of which loose cotton is inserted as winter comes on. In some instances the cotton is quilted. The well-to-do may use fur. The *k'ang,* often warmed by the flue from the kitchen fire, may, from the Western standpoint, leave much to be desired

in the way of comfort and may be plentifully infested with vermin, but it has at least the virtue of getting a good deal out of a given amount of fuel. Much building material comes directly from the farmer's own field. Sun-dried brick and tamped earthen walls, bamboo and kaoliang are common and relatively inexpensive materials for the house.

While Chinese farm tools are usually very crude and have many defects, often they display excellent features. Then, too, in a land where labor is cheap, and the farms small and the fields still smaller, the expensive power-driven agricultural machinery of the